

NOTES ON SWAINSON'S *EXOTIC CONCHOLOGY*.By C. DAVIES SHERBORN¹ and ALEXANDER REYNELL.²*Read 12th March, 1915.*

For many years Swainson's *Exotic Conchology* has been a bibliographical puzzle. No one seemed to have seen what he could feel sure was a complete copy of the first edition, or knew what the first edition really contained. Three copies have come under our notice, those belonging to the Radcliffe Library, Oxford, Mr. Reynell, and Mr. E. R. Sykes; the first and second in four original parts as published. We have been waiting patiently for years for two more parts believed to be required to complete the work. All the evidence, however, now points to the fact that Edition 1 was published and completed (as far as it got) in four parts, each part containing 8 lithographed plates, coloured or uncoloured according to the price the subscriber could pay. The colouring is particularly good in most cases. With Part 1 were issued sixteen³ pages of letterpress, consisting of a Title Page with the back as usual blank, except that the Printer's name is inscribed thereon, two pages of advertisement, and the succeeding pages occupied with descriptions of the species illustrated. No further text appears to have been issued.

Besides the Reynell copy, a second, with the front covers preserved, exists in the Radcliffe Library, Oxford, and we are much indebted to Sir Henry Miers for an exhaustive examination and very complete notes made for Mr. Sherborn in 1906. This copy appears to have two pages of the letterpress in duplicate, while four pages which should be there are missing. It also wants two plates from Part II, namely, *Murex regius*, Swn., and *Anodon sinuatus* (or *sinuosa*), Lamk.

A third copy, of which Mr. E. R. Sykes kindly sent particulars, is without covers, and complete with the exception that the four pages of text missing in the Radcliffe Library copy are here also missing. Our notes are based on the Reynell copy.

During 1834 and 1835 the book was reissued with an Engraved Title Page, and two other parts, each containing eight plates, were added. Of this reissue the British Museum, Bloomsbury, possesses 5 Parts in the original covers, once belonging to Major-General Thomas Hardwicke, who died on the 3rd of March, 1835, and therefore could not have received the sixth part. On the covers he fortunately noted the dates on which he received each part. Mr. Reynell has a complete copy in six parts with covers, but there are no manuscript dates on them. Apparently this set originally belonged to W. J. Broderip, as his name is written on one of the covers.

¹ By permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.

² Mr. E. R. Sykes, who contemplated a paper on this book, kindly withdrew in our favour, and handed over his copy for examination. Mr. Reynell has, very generously, allowed the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) to acquire his splendid copies of the first and second issues.—C. D. S.

³ We do not know with which parts the text really appeared: in all probability pp. i-iv, 1-8 with part 1, and 9-16 with either part 3 or part 4.

In 1841 Sylvanus Hanley published a second edition of the forty-eight plates, with descriptions of the species illustrated (Title-page, Advertisement, and pp. 5-39). Many of the plates were redrawn, and the following note on p. 4 sufficiently explains the reason of the republication: "But few words are requisite to preface the second edition of the *Exotic Conchology*. Mr. Swainson on quitting England having left this beautiful work in an unfinished condition, to me has been committed the task of reducing the whole into systematic arrangement, of drawing up descriptions of species, and adding such synonyms as the advanced state of Conchological knowledge might require. This charge to the best of my power I have fulfilled, adopting that system of classification, to the establishment and elucidation of which so many years of the author's lifetime have been devoted. S. H." We will now proceed to the detailed description of the two issues of the First Edition.

First Edition,
1821-1822.

As far as can be ascertained the first edition reached no further than Parts 1-4, which were published between August, 1821, and March, 1822. William Wood in his "Catalogue of an Extensive and Valuable Collection of the Best Works on Natural History, etc.," London, 1824, mentions parts 1-4 only, issued in three forms, i.e. (a) with plates uncoloured, (b) coloured, and (c) both coloured and uncoloured, and priced at 10s. 6d., 16s. 0d., and £1 1s. 0d. each part respectively.

The Title on each cover reads as follows:—

Exotic Conchology; | or | Figures and Descriptions | of | Rare, Beautiful, or Undescribed | Shells. | By | William Swainson, F.R.S., F.L.S. | Member of the Wernerian Society of Edinburgh, | Historic Society of New York, &c. |

[Part . . . | containing . . .]

London: | Printed for William Wood, Strand; and J. and A. Arch, Cornhill. | Price [filled in in ink].

The Contents of each Part and Date of issue are as follows:—

Part 1, August, 1821.

[Text; Title] Exotic Conchology; | or | Figures and Descriptions | of | Rare, Beautiful, or Undescribed | Shells, |

Drawn on Stone from the Most Select Specimens; | The descriptions systematically arranged | on the principles of MM. Cuvier and de Lamarck, | with references to the Linnæan Classification. | By William Swainson, F.R.S., F.L.S. | Member of the Wernerian Society of Edinburgh, | the Historic Society of New York, &c. | Vol. 1. | London: | Printed for William Wood, Strand; and J. and A. Arch, Cornhill. | 1821. |

[Back of Title] Printed by Richard and Arthur Taylor, Shoe Lane.

Two pages of Advertisement [III] and IV followed by twelve, unnumbered pages of text.

The first page deals with the "Family, Volutæ. Genus *Voluta*". The latter is divided into three "Sections", *Cymbæolæ*, *Musicales* and *Fusoidæ*, whose characters are diagnosed.

The second page deals with *Voluta*, Sect. 1; *V. diadema*, Lam. and *V. tessellata*, Lam. are described.

The third page deals with *Voluta*, Sect. 2; and *V. nivosa*, Lam. is described.

The fourth page deals with *Voluta*, Sect. 2; *V. marmorata*, is described by W. Swainson as a sp. nov.

The fifth page deals with *Voluta*, Sect. 3; and *V. pacifica*, Chemn. and *V. tuberculata*, are described; the latter as a sp. nov. by Swainson, who mentions that there is a possibility of its being the *V. subnodosa*, of Dr. Leach.

The sixth page continues *Voluta*, Sect. 3; and *V. elongata*, and *V. angulata*, are described as *spp. nov.* by Swainson.

The seventh page goes back to *Voluta*, Sect. 1; and *V. æthiopica*, L. and *V. melo*, Lam. are described.

The eighth page continues with *Voluta*, Sect. 1; and *V. cymbium*, Lam. and *V. rubiginosa*, are described, the latter by Swainson as a *sp. nov.*

The ninth page continues with *Voluta*, Sect. 1; and *V. olla*, Gmel. and *V. porcina*, Lam. are described.

The tenth page continues with *Voluta*, Sect. 1; and *V. proboscidalis*, Lam. and *V. scapha*, Gmel. are described.

The eleventh page deals with *Pterocera* as a division of the *Strombi*, and *P. aurantia*, *P. nodosa*, Brug. and *P. robusta*, are described. The first is presumably Lamarck's species, and *Strombus scorpio*, Martini, is given as a synonym, the third is described as a sp. nov. by Swainson, and its nearest ally given as *P. nodosa*, Brug.

The twelfth page continues *Pterocera*, and *P. elongata*, *P. millepeda*, L. and *P. violacea*, Martini, are described. The first is separated from the second, and described as a *sp. nov.* by Swainson.

The text ends here; no more text seems to have been published until the second edition by Sylvanus Hanley in 1841.

Eight Plates follow, illustrating

<i>Voluta diadema</i> , Lam.	<i>Voluta angulata</i> (under side).
„ <i>marmorata</i> , Sw.	<i>Achatina maginata</i> , var.
„ <i>nivosa</i> , Lam.	<i>Modiola elongata</i> , Sw.
„ <i>angulata</i> , Sol.	<i>Unio alatus</i> , Lam.

[Latin names only given here.]

On the outside of the back cover is the following:—“This work is intended to contain accurate and faithfully coloured figures of some of the most beautiful and rare Shells that remain undescribed, or are imperfectly figured by former writers, and which, from their size, cannot conveniently be introduced in the ‘Zoological Illustrations’, now in a course of publication. The unreserved access to some of the principal cabinets in this Country, with which the author has been favoured, will enable him to select as subjects for the work,

many Shells of the greatest rarity and beauty; at the same time he will feel obliged by the intimation of any others, existing in cabinets he has not yet inspected, and which, if adapted to the work and intrusted to him, shall be most faithfully and expeditiously returned.

The Plates will be engraved on Stone by the Author, and afterwards carefully finished in colours under the superintendence of Mr. Graves. It is intended to be published (on a royal quarto size) in parts, to appear every two months, each containing eight plates, and the letterpress (which will be given in the course of publication) arranged systematically. The whole will be completed in two volumes; the price of each part, 10s. 6d. plain or 16s. coloured; or, with both plain and coloured impressions, One Guinea.

Printed by R. and A. Taylor, Shoe Lane, London."

Part II, October, 1821.

Contains eight plates.

Pterocera amantia, Sw.

Achatina sultana, Fér.

Strombus pugilus, var. Lin.

Voluta tessellata, Lam.

„ *scapha*.

„ *pacifica*, Sol.

Murex regius, Sw.

Anodon sinuatus, on cover; *sinuosa*, Lam. on plate.

On the outside of the back cover is the following "Advertisement":

"It will be perceived from our Prospectus, that we have not pledged ourselves to give a portion of the Letter-press in every Part; for as we intend the Descriptions should follow in systematic order, this, under the form we have printed it, would be impossible. Our Subscribers will not, however, suffer beyond a little delay; for after a few Parts are published, they will find that all the Plates will be described, though the Descriptions will not accompany the contents of each particular Part."

"N.B. The Author will feel much indebted to any Collector for the loan of a small and fine specimen of *Voluta Neptuni*, Dillwyn's Catalogue, vol. i, page 578, also of *V. Corona*, Dill. 576. Martini 10. tab. 148. 1387 & 8, and *Voluta Junonia*, Martini 11. 177. 1703 & 4, and pledges himself to return them within three weeks of the time he may be favoured with them, if left in the care of Mr. Wood, No. 428, Strand, who, if required, will give a receipt for the same."

Part III. December 1821.

(Contains eight plates.)

Strombus pacificus, Sw.

Mitra glabra, Sw.

Fusus aruanus, Sw.

Voluta elongata, Sw.

Do. (underside).

Voluta melo, Sol.
Achatina maculata, Sw.
Hyria elongata, Sw.

Part IV. March 1822.

(Contains eight plates.)

Voluta porcina, Lam.
 ,, *olla*, Linn.
 ,, *undulata*, Lam.
 ,, *rubiginosa*, Sw.
 ,, *tuberculata*, Sw.
Mitra pertusa, Sw.
Strombus tricornis, Humph.
 ,, *gallus*, Linn.

[The Plates are not numbered; but the name of each species or variety illustrated is given at the bottom of each plate, printed, or written in ink, with the Author's name attached and the source of the specimen.]

Reissue of first edition, in part redrawn; with two additional parts.

1834—1835?

This consists of six parts, the first four being a reissue with minor differences of the first issue, to which were added two new parts.

The Titles on the front covers of Parts I—III are as follows:—

“Exotic Conchology; | or | Figures and Descriptions | of | Rare, Beautiful, or Undescribed | Shells. | By | William Swainson, F.R.S. & F.L.S. | Member of the Wernerian Society of Edinburgh, | Historic Society of New York, &c. | Part I [2, 3] | containing [no contents are given] | London: | Printed for William Wood, Strand; and J. and A. Arch, Cornhill. | Price” [amount written in ink] |

There was a slip inserted in Part II referring to the first Series of the Ornithological Drawings, the ‘Birds of Brazil’, by W. Swainson. It also states “Exotic Conchology. After the Third Part, the Price of the succeeding will be raised to non-subscribers from 10*s.* 6*d.* to 14*s.*”

The Titles on the Front Covers of Parts IV—VI are as follows:—

“Dedicated | to | The Rev. Joseph Goodall, D.D. F.L.S. &c. | Provost of Eton. | Exotic Conchology; | or | Figures and Descriptions of Rare, Beautiful, or Undescribed | Shells. | By | William Swainson, Esq. M.P.S. Camb. | and of several Foreign Academies. | Part 4 [5, 6]. | London: | Published by Baldwin and Craddock, Paternoster Row; and J. and J. Arch, Cornhill. | Prices. Plain 7*s.* Coloured 10*s.* 6*d.* (Non-Subscribers 14*s.*) Double Plates (Subscribers) 15*s.* | Published every other Month, and to be completed in Six Parts.” |

At the end of W. Swainson's ‘Elements of Modern Conchology’, etc., London, 1835, appears the following Advertisement:—

“Exotic Conchology, or highly finished Drawings of some of the most rare costly or interesting Foreign Shells. Complete in seven parts. Royal Quarto each with 8 plates, price 10s. 6d. each part.”

This seventh part, if it ever appeared (? a printer's error), has not been seen.

The Contents and Dates of Publication of the 1834-5 reissue and continuation are as follows, the dates being taken from the endorsements on the covers of Major-General Thomas Hardwicke's copy in the British Museum (730 l. 24).

Part I. Jan'y 15th, 1834.

Engraved Title Page as follows:—

Exotic | Conchology | or | Drawings and Descriptions | of Rare,
Beautiful or Undescribed | Shells. | By | William Swainson, Esq.
FRS. LS. PS Camb. | and of several Foreign Academies [*sic*]. |
London | Baldwin & Cradock J. & A. Arch. Treuttel. Würtz
& Richter. W. Wood. | and by Rob^t. Havell, 77, Oxford St. |
1834 |

[No letterpress, though it is possible that some copies were provided with loose text remaining over from the first issue.]

Contains 8 Plates Coloured and 8 Plates Plain, illustrating the same species as in the original issue; but they are not in the same order of arrangement.

Part II. April 1st 1834.

Contains 8 Plates Coloured and 8 Plates Plain, illustrating the same species as in the original issue with the exception of Plate 5, which is devoted to *Strombus alatus*, Gmel., instead of *Strombus pugilis*, var. Lin., as in the original issue.

On Plate 16 one reads *Anodonta sinuosis*, Swain., instead of *Anodonta sinuosa*, Lamk., as in the original issue, but the shell is the same in both.

Part III. June 2nd 1834.

Contains 8 Plates Coloured and 8 Plates Plain, illustrating the same species as in the original issue.

In Plate 20 the species illustrated is named *Cymbiola elongata*, Sw., and the other view *Voluta elongata*, Sw. In the original issue they both read *Voluta elongata*, Sw.

Part IV. Jan'y 12th 1835.

Contains 8 Plates Coloured and 8 Plates Plain, illustrating the same species as in the original issue.

Part V. Jan'y 12th 1835.

Contains 8 Plates Coloured and 8 Plates Plain.

Pl. 33. *Voluta Junonia*, Lam.

„ 34. „ *cymbium*, Lin., Mus. D. Bainbridge, on Plain Plate.

cymbium, Mus. Domœ Bambridge, on Coloured Plate.

„ 35. *Cypræa pulchella*, Sw.

„ 36. *Anodon oratus*, Sw.

- Pl. 37. *Anodon rotundatus*, Sw.
 ,, 38. *Voluta maculata*, Sw.
 ,, 39. ,, *æthiopica*, Linn.
 ,, 40. ,, *lugubris*, Sw.

Part VI. [undated] but not earlier than March 1st 1835.
 Contains 8 Coloured and 8 Plain Plates.

- Pl. 41. *Voluta harpa*, Sw.
 ,, 42. ,, *gracilis*, Sw.
 ,, 43. ,, *pacifica*.
 ,, 44. ,, *zebra*.
 ,, 45. ,, *chrysostoma*, Sw.
 ,, 46. *Strombus laciniatus*.
 ,, 47. ,, *melanastomus*.
 ,, 48. *Voluta scapha*.

The Plates of the first four parts of the reissue were nearly all, if not every one, redrawn, and differ, some very much, from those in the original issue; and one remarks that their colouring is not quite so good. The Plain Plates of the reissue are in the Reynell copy on India paper of a pale grey-brown tint, mounted on white paper. The Plates have no printed numbers, but in the Reynell copy they have been added in ink.

The Second Edition 1841.

As this is quite a common book, such notes as are necessary have been given in the introductory remarks.